MARVEL

39

DESTINATION: HOTH

STAR WARS™

DOCTOR APHRA

SPURRIER
WIJNGAARD
LOUGHRIDGE

A ROGUE'S END
Part III

Doctor Aphra and her sidekick of sorts, Vulaada, are finally back in good favor with the Empire...but they're still one slip up away from certain execution at the hands of Darth Vader.

While assigned to a specialized Imperial archaeological team in search of the new rebel base, Aphra was reunited with her estranged father, Korin, whose recent run-in with the Rebellion led them to an ancient Force-cult shrine. But all Vader found at the shrine were haunting visions of his own dark past. He ordered the mind-wiped killer droid BT-1 to execute one of the Aphras.

Korin chose to sacrifice himself for his daughter, but the decision was interrupted by the sudden capture of their shuttle by Aphra's ex-girlfriend and current rebel leader, Magna Tolvan....

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The *Unnamed*.
Rebel Intelligence.

WE'VE SEARCHED THE *CAPTIVES*, CAPTAIN TOLVAN. NO SIGN OF *APHRA*.

SHE'S HERE.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?

I JUST *KNOW*.

SPOOKY CONNECTION BETWEEN STAR-CROSSED LOVERS. GOT IT.

NO, THAT'S N--

UH--CAPTAIN? GETTING A WEIRD *ENERGY* SPIKE HERE...

IT'S--*HELL!* IT'S THE *CANNONS!* SOMEONE'S CHARGING THE *CANNONS!*

VRRRRR

SHE'S GOING TO *BLAST* HER WAY OUT! P-PULL *BACK!*

SHE'LL OPEN US TO *VACUUM!* GET OUT OF THE *HANGAR!* GO!

WAIT...SHE WOULDN'T DO TH--

PEW PEW PEW
HEH.
KBOOM
THE CANNON...SHE--SHE HID *INSIDE* THE CANNON SYSTEMS...
=SIGH= I FORGOT HOW *SNEAKY* SHE IS. I CAN SEE WHY YOU *LIKE* HER.
ALL HANDS! WE HAVE A *STOWAWAY!*

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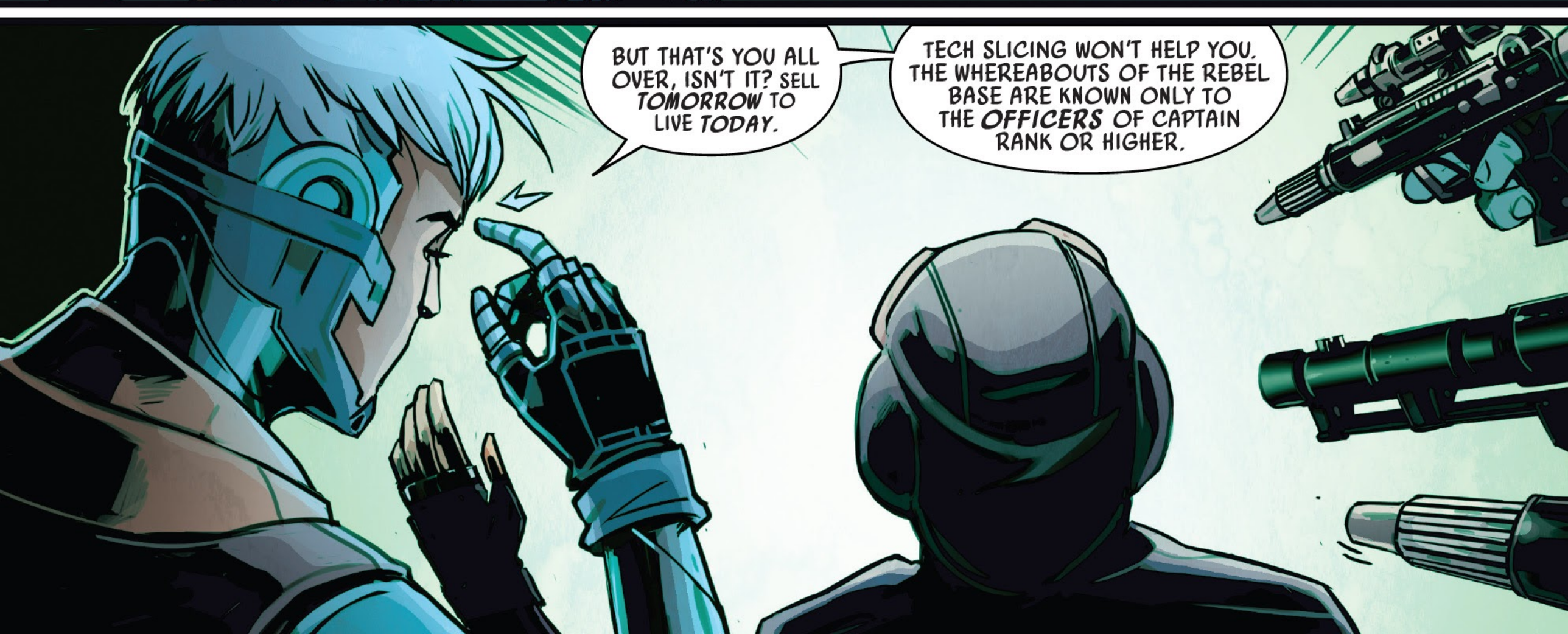
I NEED TO FIND THAT REBEL BASE, DAD. I'M DEAD IF I DON'T...
=SIGH= YOU KNOW, APHRA...SELLING OUT THE HOME OF A FEW THOUSAND FREEDOM FIGHTERS MIGHT ACTUALLY HAVE BEEN A CONTENDER FOR THE WORST THING YOU'VE EVER DONE--

--IF IT WEREN'T ALREADY THE STUPIDEST.
THINK ABOUT IT. YOU'RE TRYING TO SAVE YOURSELF FROM THE MONSTER WHO VOWED TO KILL YOU BY GIVING HIM EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK VADER WILL DO TO YOU AFTER YOU'VE SERVED YOUR PURPOSE, YOU SILLY LITTLE FOOL?

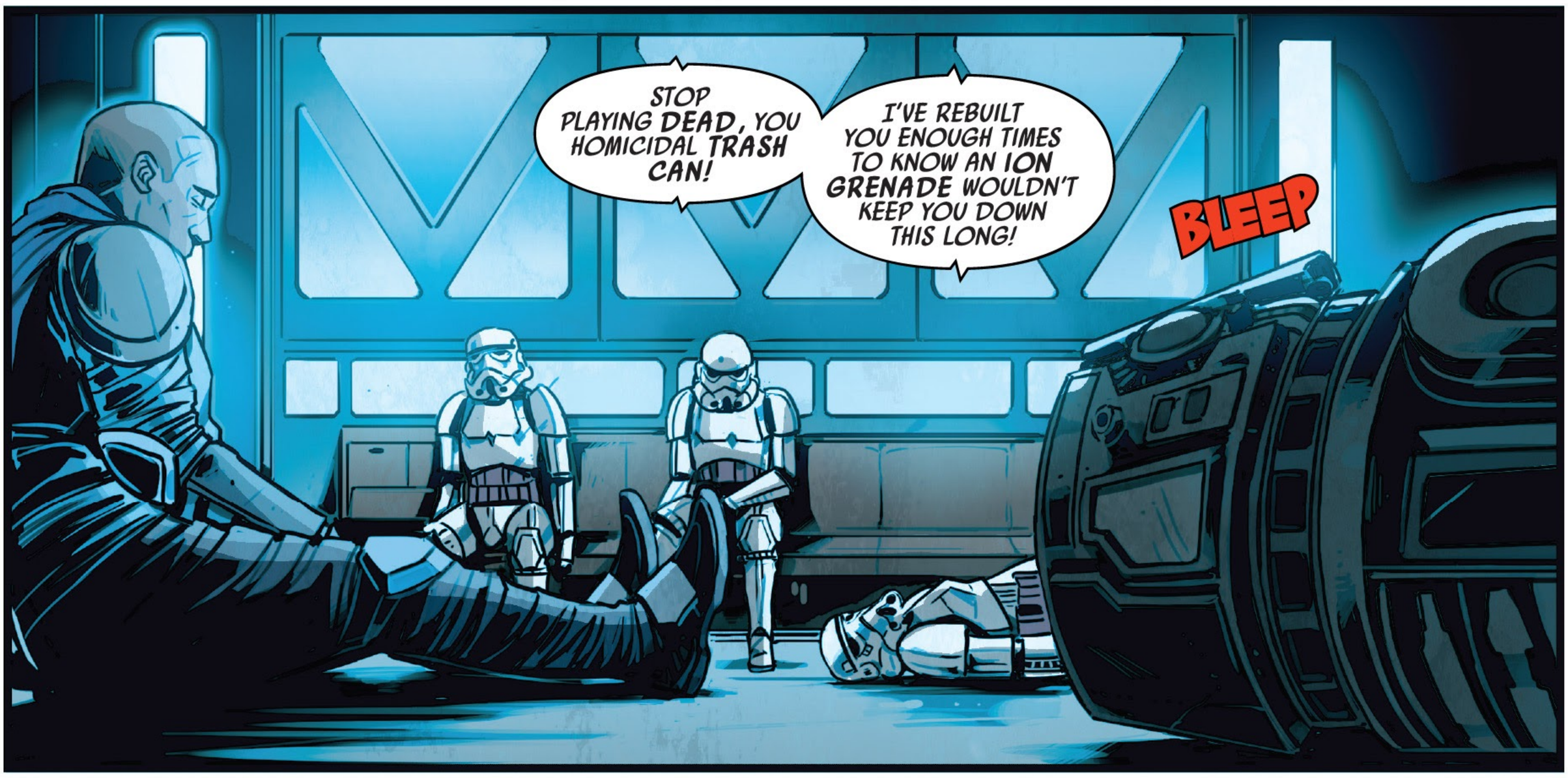

BUT THAT'S YOU ALL OVER, ISN'T IT? SELL TOMORROW TO LIVE TODAY.
TECH SLICING WON'T HELP YOU. THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE REBEL BASE ARE KNOWN ONLY TO THE OFFICERS OF CAPTAIN RANK OR HIGHER.

BUT DON'T WORRY. YOU'LL SEE IT SOON ENOUGH.
YOU'LL SIT OUT THE WAR THERE, THANKING YOUR STARS THE REBELLION BOTHERS TO FEED ITS PRISONERS--
--AND PRAYING ANOTHER SNAKE LIKE YOU DOESN'T LEAD THE EMPIRE STRAIGHT TO IT.
NOW TURN AROUND. SLOWLY.

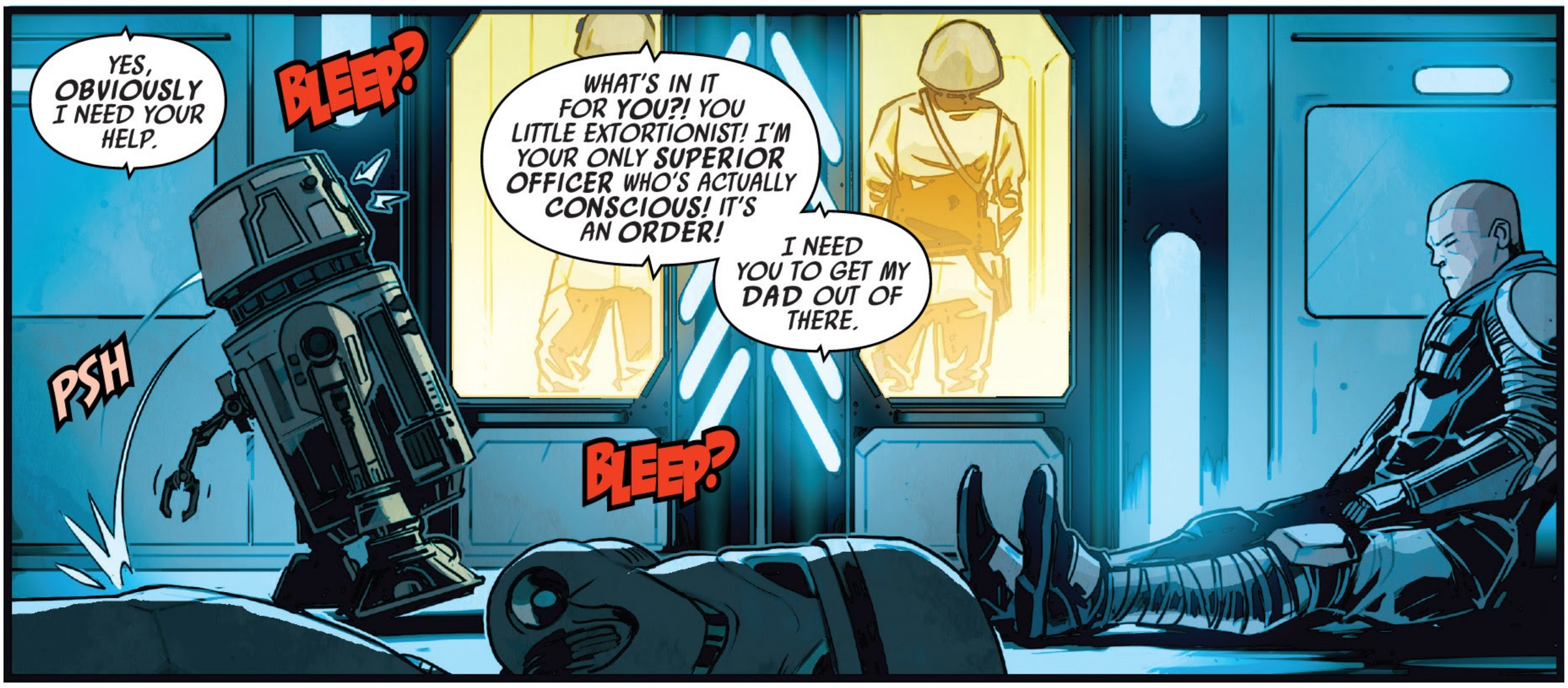
SERIOUSLY, DOC. SHE'S IN A REALLY BAD MOO--
I SAID TURN AROUND!

SH--
=ZZK=--SHE--
KKLKL!--SHE KEEPS D-D-D-DOING THIS...
PSSSHT
NO!
KOOOM
NRRRRR!

BEETEE? BEETEE-ONE!

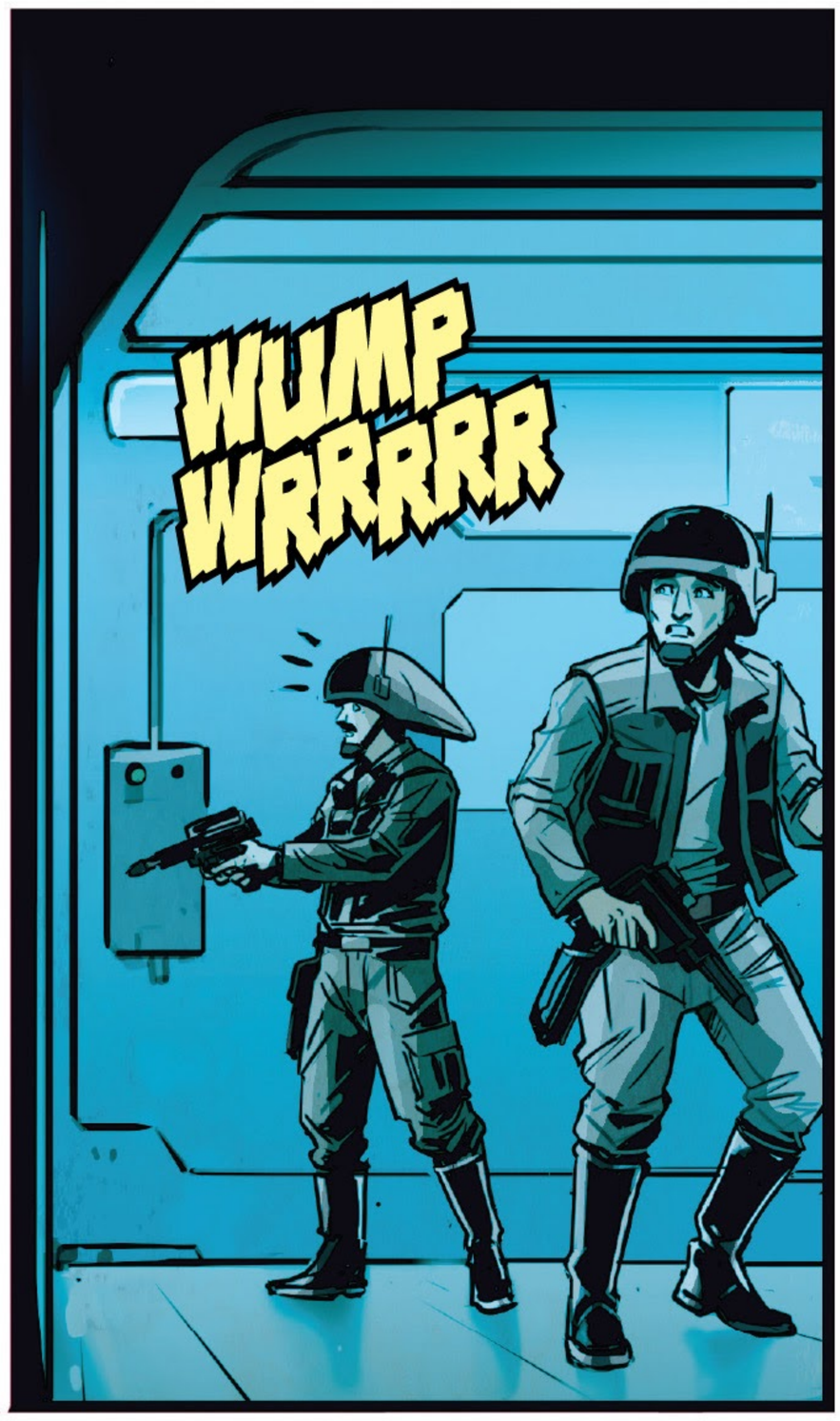

STOP PLAYING DEAD, YOU HOMICIDAL TRASH CAN!
I'VE REBUILT YOU ENOUGH TIMES TO KNOW AN ION GRENADE WOULDN'T KEEP YOU DOWN THIS LONG!
BLEEP

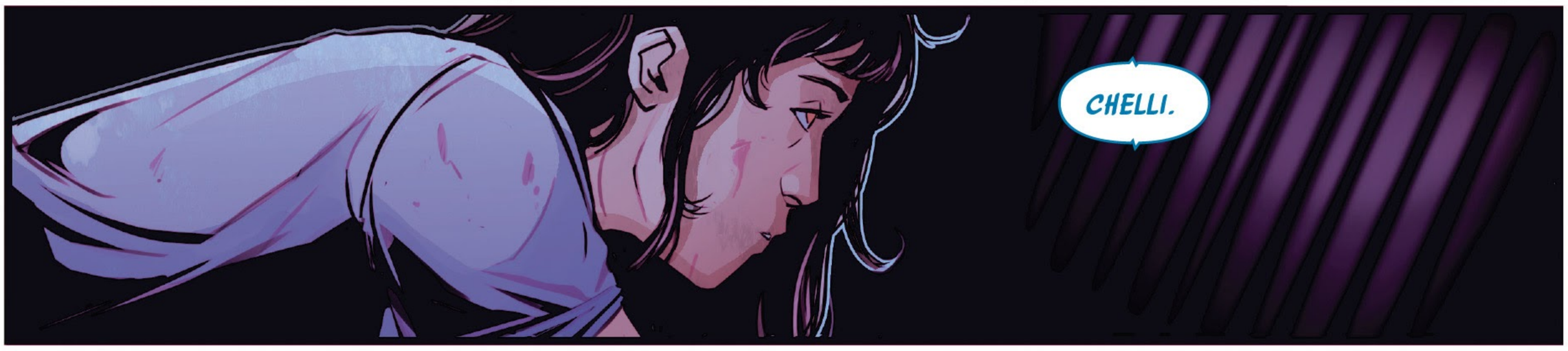
LISTEN--I'VE SEALED THE TROOPS IN THE OPS CORE AND--
CLNK!
--HEH!-- LOCKED THE BRIDGE FROM OUTSIDE. BUT I THINK TOLVAN'S STILL OUT THERE SOMEWHERE. I CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE BRIG.
BLEEP?

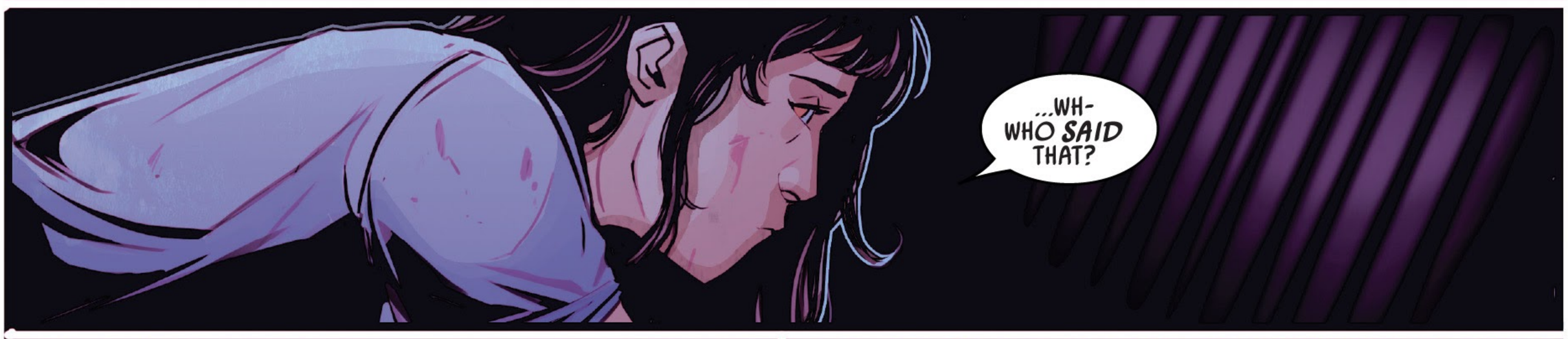

YES, OBVIOUSLY I NEED YOUR HELP.
BLEEP?
WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?! YOU LITTLE EXTORTIONIST! I'M YOUR ONLY SUPERIOR OFFICER WHO'S ACTUALLY CONSCIOUS! IT'S AN ORDER!
I NEED YOU TO GET MY DAD OUT OF THERE.
PSH
BLEEP?

NO--ALIVE, YOU LITTLE PSYCHOPATH! BUT...
=SIGH= LOOK, IF IT'LL HELP INCENTIVIZE YOU?

ANYONE ELSE IS FAIR GAME.
BLEEEEEP...


WUMP WRRRRR

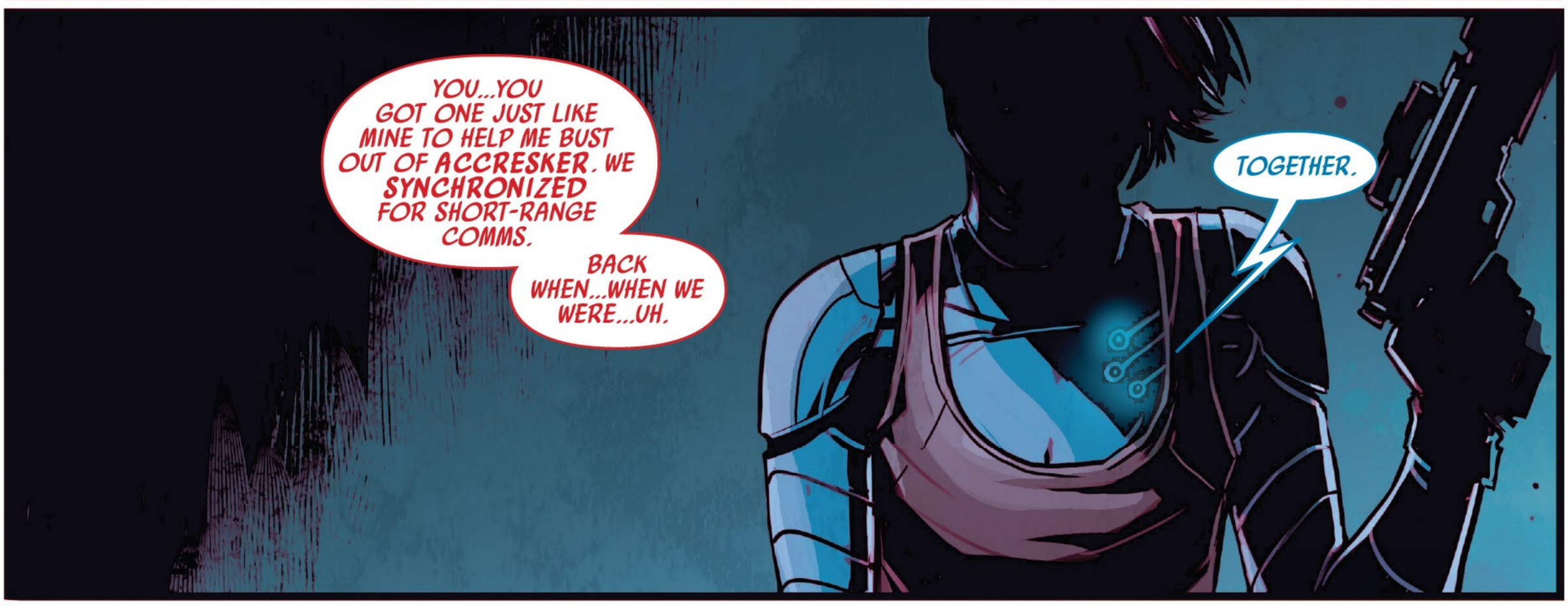

CHELLI.


...WH- WHO SAID THAT?

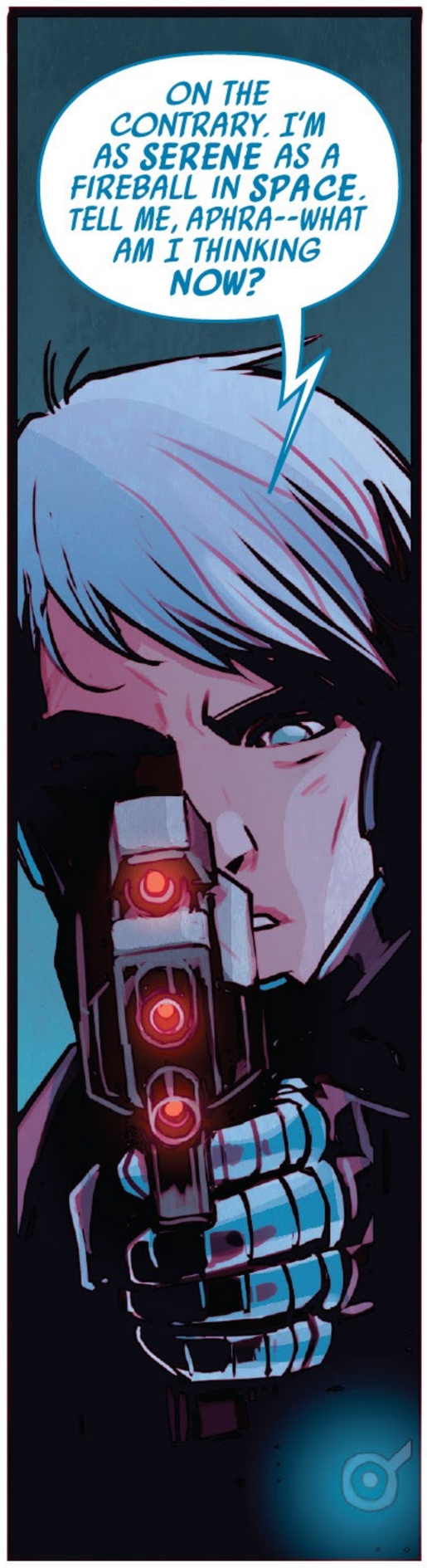
DIDN'T YOU WONDER HOW I KNEW YOU WERE ABOARD?
IT'S BECAUSE MY FLESH CRAWLS WHENEVER YOU'RE NEAR.

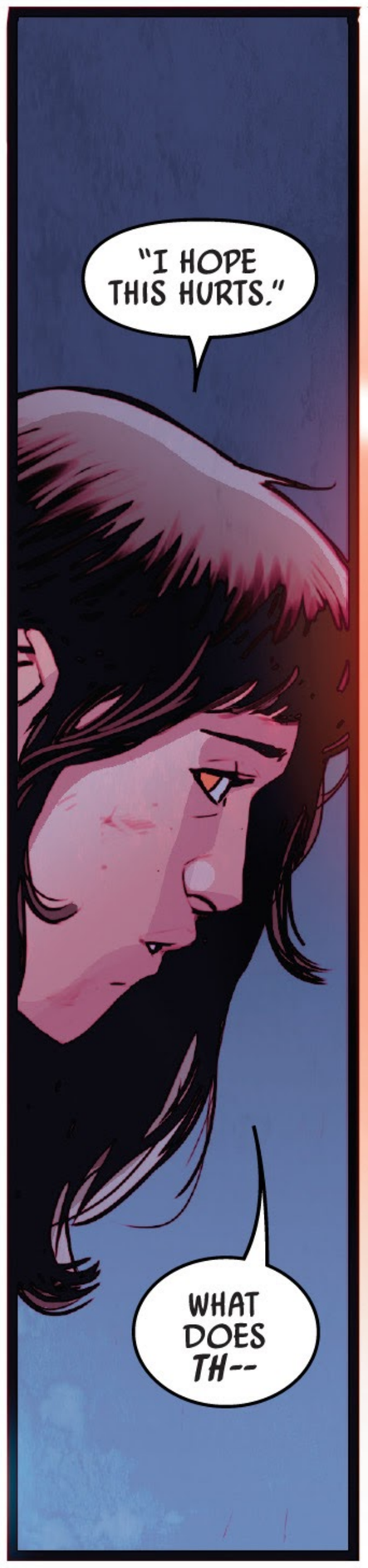
TOLVAN?
"FLESH CRAWLS"? THAT'S... WEIRDLY POETIC, FOR Y--
WAIT.

YOU MEAN LITERALLY--DON'T YOU?
THE ELECTRO TATTOO...


YOU...YOU GOT ONE JUST LIKE MINE TO HELP ME BUST OUT OF ACCRESKER. WE SYNCHRONIZED FOR SHORT-RANGE COMMS.
BACK WHEN...WHEN WE WERE...UH.
TOGETHER.

NF. OW.
WHAT'S WRONG?
BIOFEEDBACK. I CAN FEEL LITTLE BITS OF YOUR THOUGHTS. YOU'RE, UM...YOU'RE REALLY CLOSE, AREN'T YOU?
AND--REALLY ANGRY.


ON THE CONTRARY. I'M AS SERENE AS A FIREBALL IN SPACE. TELL ME, APHRA--WHAT AM I THINKING NOW?


"I HOPE THIS HURTS."
WHAT DOES TH--

ZOT!
AAAAAAA!

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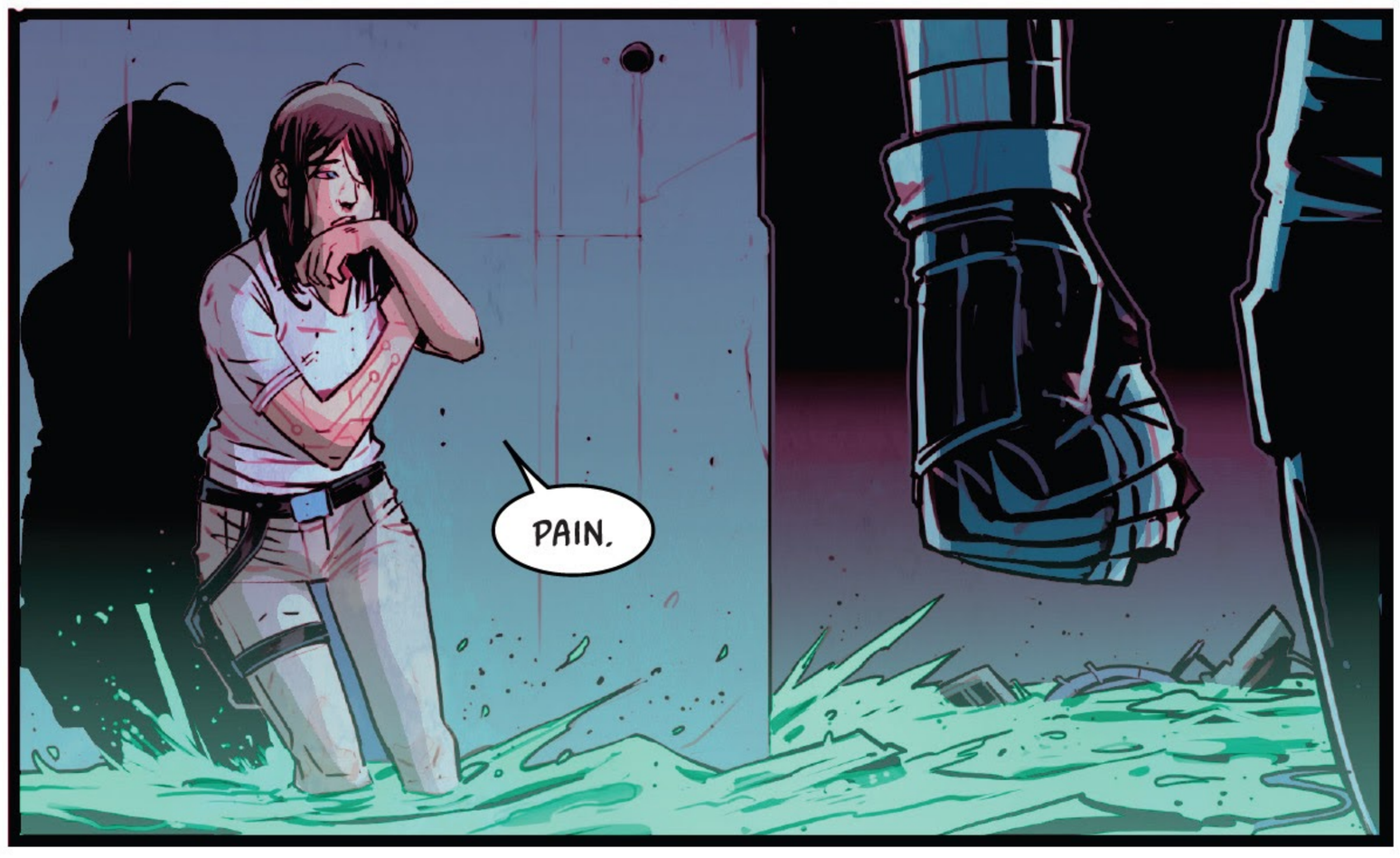
YAAAAA--

I =KAFF= BROKE EVERY DISCIPLINE FOR YOU, EVERY LAYER OF ARMOR I'D EVER BUILT.
D-DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW H-HARD IT IS FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME TO BE VULNERABLE?
UHHHH...

I GAVE UP EVERYTHING FOR YOU!
AND WHAT DID YOU GIVE ME IN RETURN?!


PAIN.

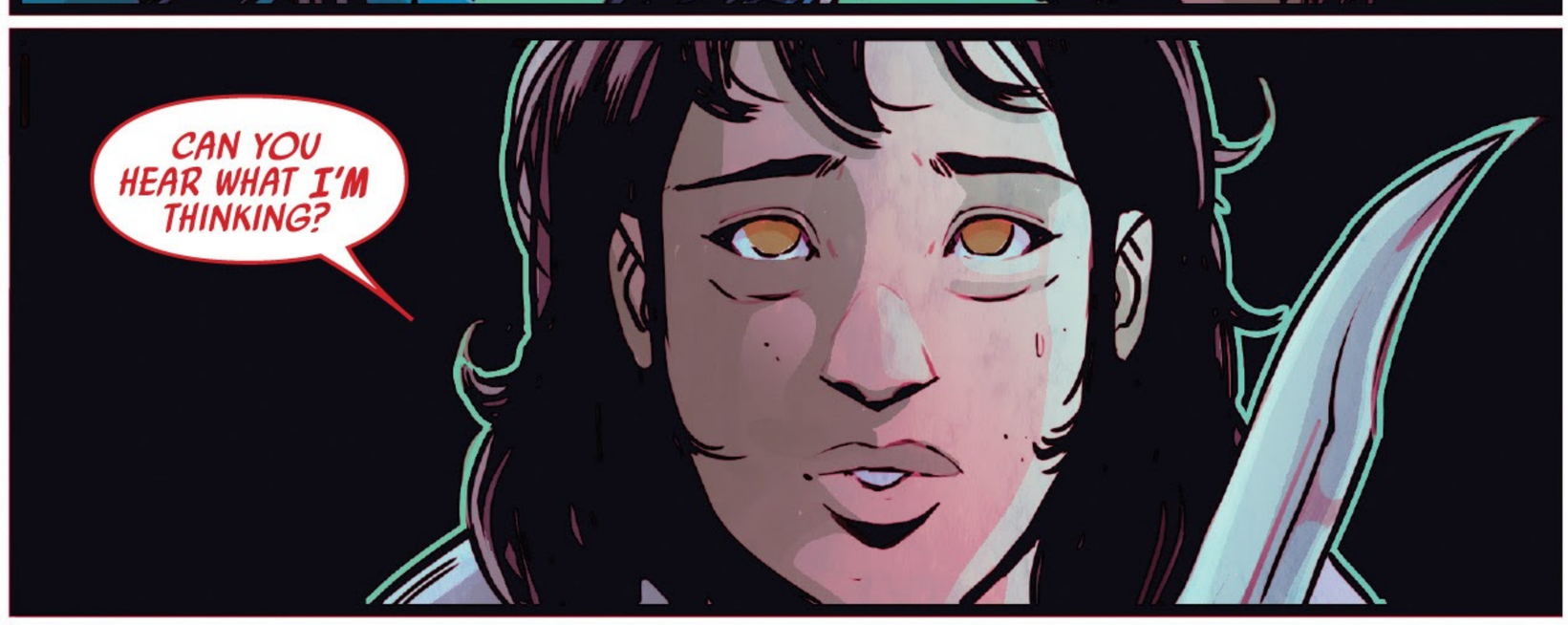
PAIN, AND JOY, AND NEED, AND--AND CHAOS.
AND ALL THE OTHER THINGS THAT PROVE YOU'VE GOT A HEART.

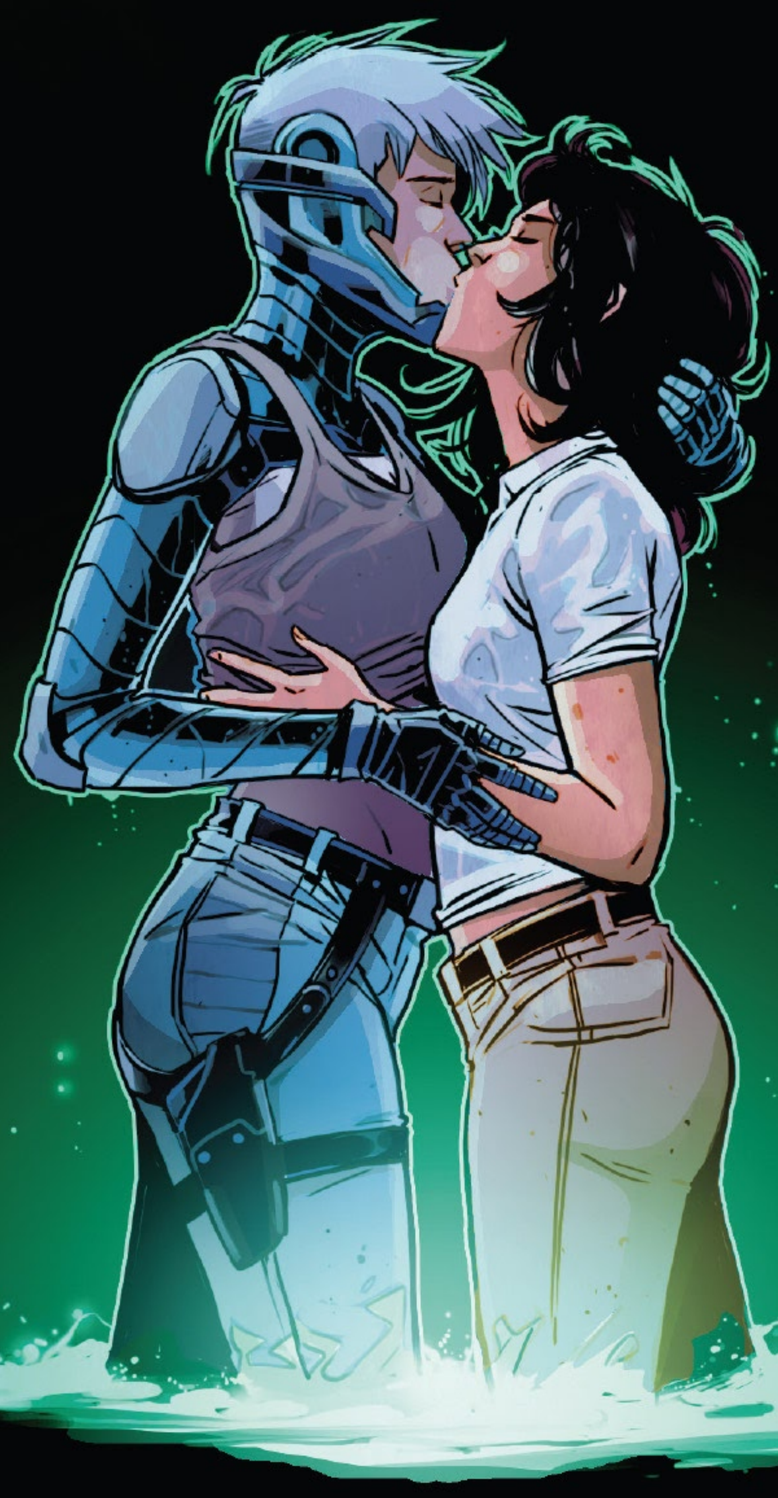
ZZT
I CAN FEEL IT, MAGNA. YOU BELIEVE IN WHAT THESE MANIACS ARE SELLING, DON'T YOU? THEY'RE GOOD AT THAT.
"HOPE." HA.

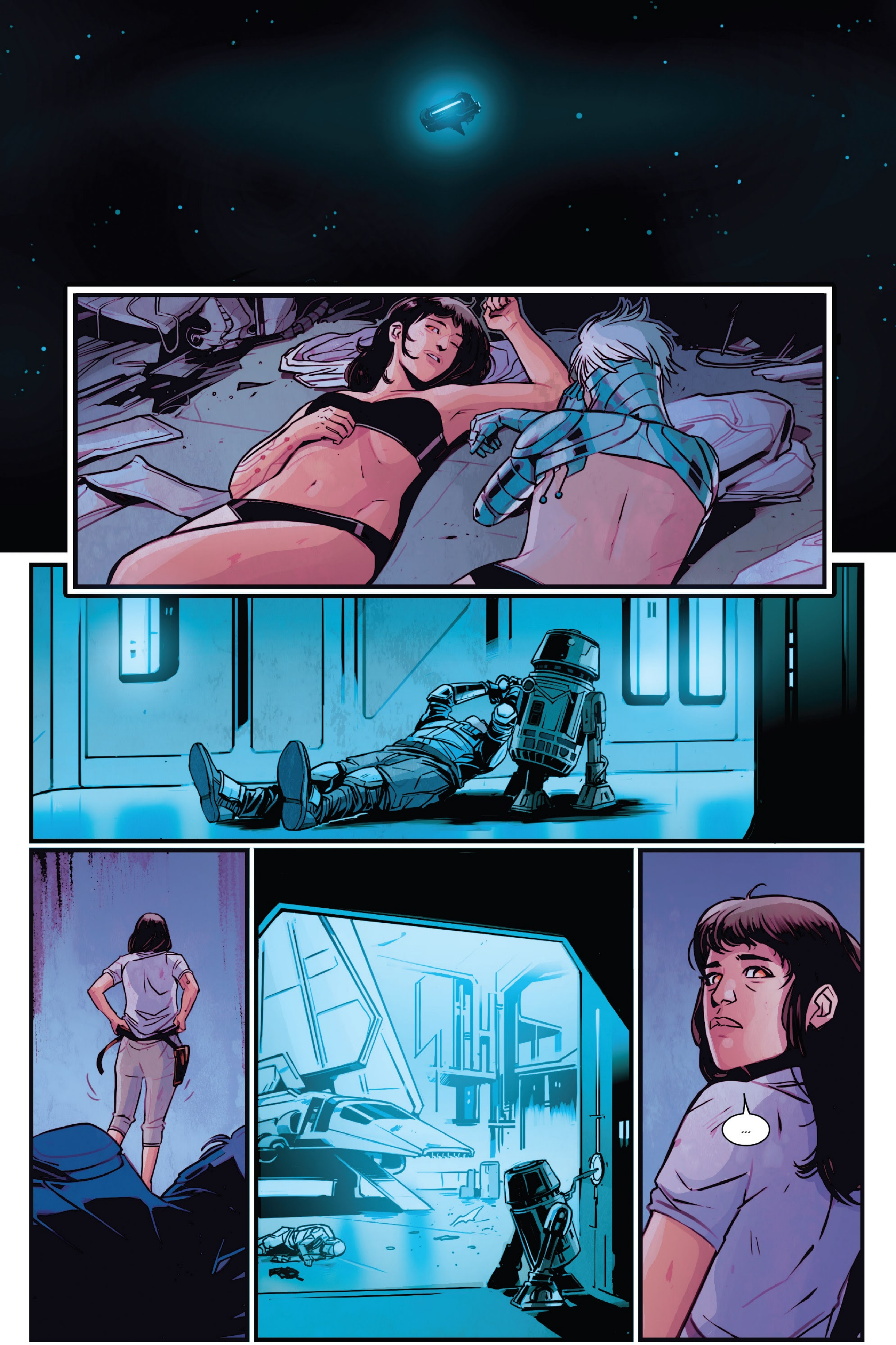
YOU'RE THINKING--YOU'RE THINKING THAT RIGHT NOW THEIR NEW BASE IS VULNERABLE TO ATTACK.
WHAT? G-GET OFF ME!
YOU'RE TRYING SO HARD NOT TO THINK ABOUT THE NAME OF THE WORLD IT'S ON.

YOU'RE THINKING--IT'LL TAKE A WHILE BEFORE THE DEFENSES ARE BUILT AND THE EVACUATION PLAN'S IN PLACE.
STOP READING MY MIND!
AND YOU KNOW--DON'T YOU--THAT IF I LEARN WHERE IT IS, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE VADER DOES.

S-SO TELL ME, MAGNA.

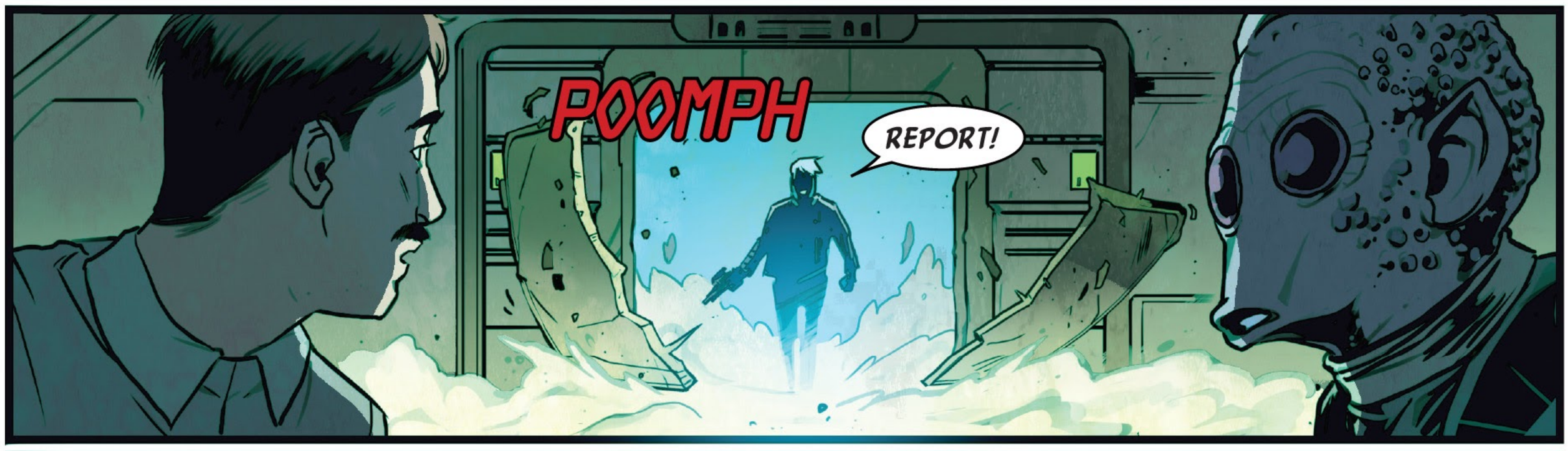

CAN YOU HEAR WHAT I'M THINKING?

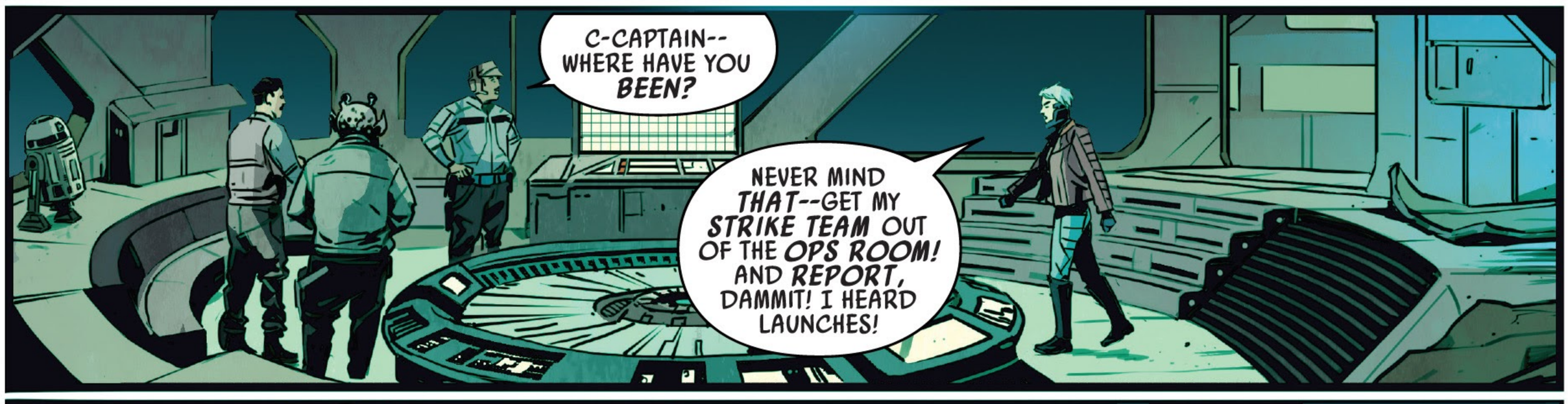


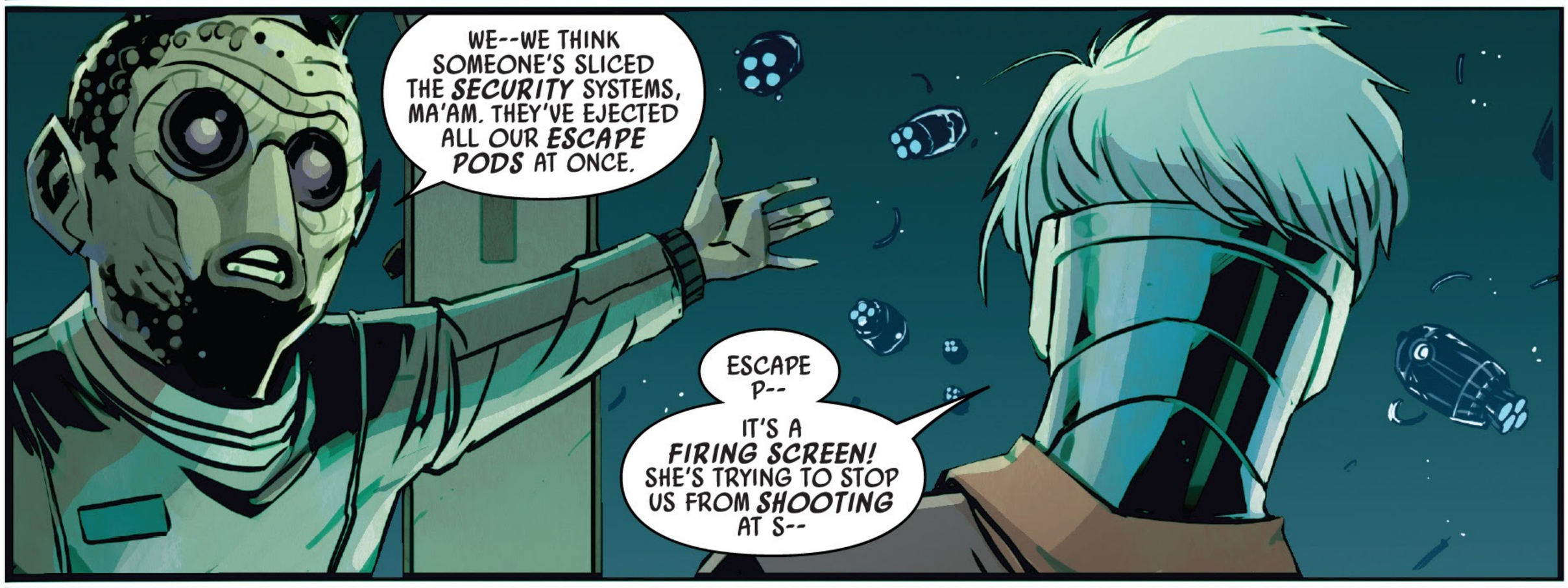


ZZT
HOTH.
POOMPH
HHHRRRNN--?!

POOMPH
POOMPH
POOMPH
WHAT THE...


POOMPH
REPORT!


C-CAPTAIN-- WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
NEVER MIND THAT--GET MY STRIKE TEAM OUT OF THE OPS ROOM! AND REPORT, DAMMIT! I HEARD LAUNCHES!


WE--WE THINK SOMEONE'S SLICED THE SECURITY SYSTEMS, MA'AM. THEY'VE EJECTED ALL OUR ESCAPE PODS AT ONCE.
ESCAPE P--
IT'S A FIRING SCREEN! SHE'S TRYING TO STOP US FROM SHOOTING AT S--

POOMPH

THE--THE *SHUTTLE*, MA'AM--IT *BLASTED OPEN* THE HANGAR! I CAN'T GET A WEAPONS LOCK! TOO MANY TARGETS!

SINGLE *LIFE SIGN* ABOARD.

HMPH. SHE'S LEAVING BEHIND HER *FATHER*. AGAIN.

"STANDARD."

SERGEANT SIX--I TRUST YOU ATTACHED A *TRACKER* TO THE SHUTTLE?

STANDARD PROCEDURE, BOSS.

THEN WHAT ARE WE *WAITING* FOR?

"CATCH THAT DAMN WOMAN!"

Kartovian Formation: Ash Moon I.

AAAA! AAAA! AAA!

HH! HHH! HUH--

RWEEEEEEEEEE

SMOSH!

AAA! AAA! AAA!

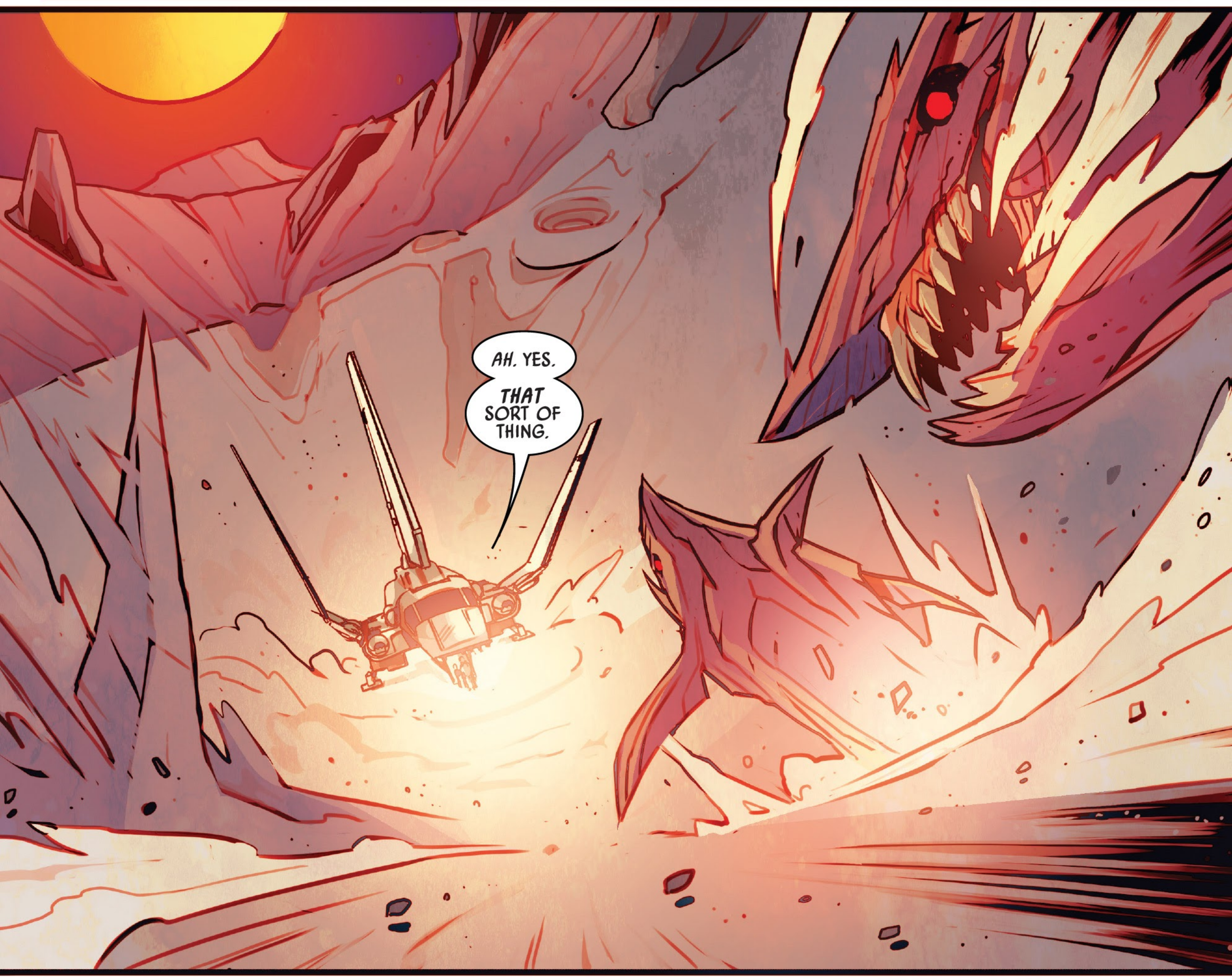
APHRA! APHRA, IS THAT YOU? I-IT'S ME, VULAADA!

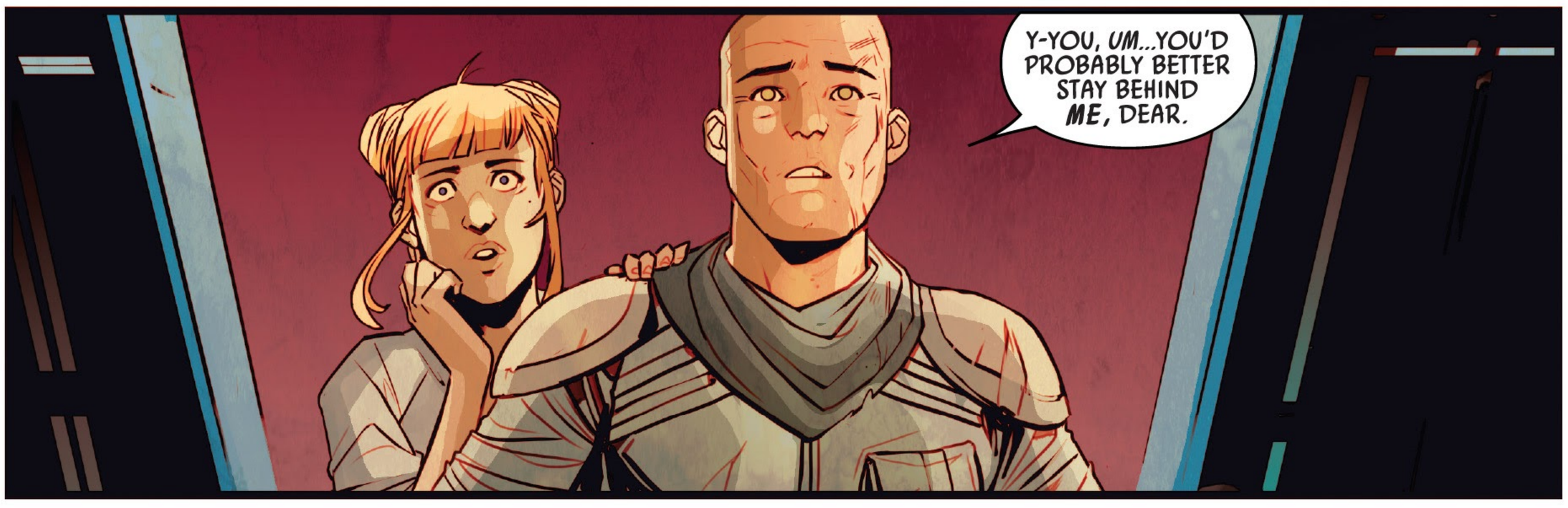
P-P-PLEASE BE YOU! APHRA?!

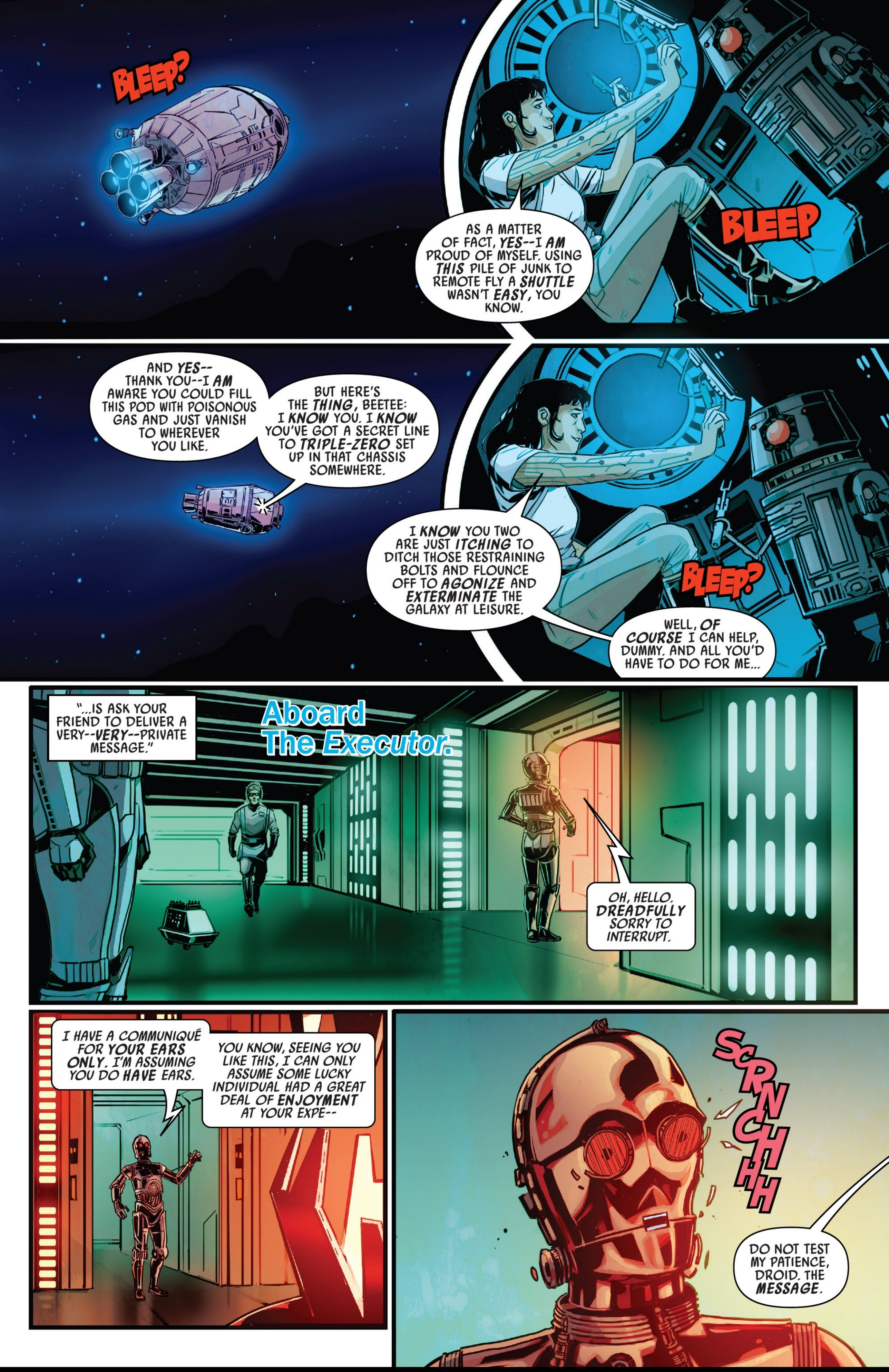
UM. Y-YES? YES, I'M APHRA.

DO YOU, UM--DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?

I THINK I MAY HAVE *SLEPT* THROUGH A FEW IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS.
L-L-LIKE *THAT?*


AH. YES.
THAT SORT OF THING.


Y-YOU, *UM*...YOU'D PROBABLY BETTER STAY BEHIND *ME*, DEAR.



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YES--WELL, IT'S MISTRESS APHRA, SIR. SHE'S LEARNED THE LOCATION OF THE REBEL BASE.

SHE SAYS--

To Be Concluded...

DOCTOR APHRA NEXT ISSUE:

The epic final issue of DOCTOR APHRA!

A ROGUE'S END and DESTINATION HOTH CONCLUDE!

WRITTEN BY SIMON SPURRIER!
ART BY CASPAR WIJNGAARD
AND COVER BY ASHLEY WITTER!